

PROPOSED CLAIMS

U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/980,235

35. (Currently Pending) A fastening means for screening panels, which fastening means includes:

fasteners, each fastener as a combination structure having a metal bolt as a tensile component and a polymeric holding component which has a ledge for holding down a panel;

and a stringer for use as a joist in a screen frame, the stringer comprising a strip of cross section having a narrow width and depth sufficient to carry vertical reciprocating loads, presenting neither a top nor a bottom web, but a plurality of spaced apart platforms,

each platform presenting a fastening formation which receives the tensile component, for securing a panel and a support area around or adjacent the fastening formation for supporting the panel,

characterized in that there are a plurality of spaced apart separate fasteners and in that each platform is in the form of a disc having a hole in its centre and the hole is immediately above the centroid of the stringer, fixed directly to the stringer at the upper surface of the stringer with an opening in the stringer immediately below the platform, and the bolt passes through the polymeric holding component and projects above the top of it.

36. (Currently Amended) [A] The fastening means as claimed in claim 35, which further includes a separate cover for an exposed portion of the metal tensile component.

37. (Currently Amended) [A] The fastening means as claimed in claim 36, in which the cover has a skirt providing an improved barrier to ingress of material.

38. (Currently Amended) [A] Th fastening means as claimed in claim 35, in which each fastener is provided in combination with a toggle or butterfly near an end of the metal tensile component, for engaging the hole in the disc hold on the stringer.

39. (Currently Amended) [A] The fastening means as claimed in claim 38, in which the toggle comprises a strip or plate with the tensile member passing through an offset hole, the plate narrow enough to be passed through the hole in the screening frame member when misaligned, but long enough to be held when aligned.

40. (Currently Amended) [A] The fastening means as claimed in claim 38, in which the polymeric holding component is provided with a further step which fits into an enlarged hole provided in the screen frame.

41. (Currently Amended) [A] The fastening means as claimed in claim 35, [provided together with] wherein said [a] screening panel [which] is provided with co-acting formations for co-acting with the fastener, in which that part of the formation of the panel for co-acting with the ledge of the fastener is located at an intermediate position in the depth of the panel, in which the co-acting formations in the panel are provided at the edges of the panel and in which the co-acting formations include also a portion for co-acting with the skirt, which formations allow the skirt to enter partially into the depth of the panel.

42. (Currently Amended) [A] The fastening means as claimed in claim 35, [which fastener comprises a combination structure including a metal tensile component in the form of a bolt and nut and a concentric polymeric holding component which includes a ledge for holding a panel, and] further including a

separate cover for an exposed portion of the metal tensile component, the bolt passing through the polymeric holding component and projecting from the top of it.

43. (Currently Amended) [A] The fastening means [fastener for screening panels,] as claimed in claim 42, in which the cover has a skirt which fits into a co-acting recess in the edges of the panel providing an improved barrier to ingress of material.

44. (Currently Amended) [A fastener for screening panels,] The fastening means as claimed in claim 42, [in which the fastener is provided in combination with a] further comprising a toggle near an end of the metal tensile component, for engaging a blind hole in [a screening frame, in which] said screen frame wherein the toggle comprises a strip of plate with the tensile member passing through a offset hold, the plate narrow enough to be passed through a hole in the screening frame member when misaligned, but enough to be held when aligned.

45. (Currently Amended) The fastening means [A stringer for screening means, which includes a fastening means] as claimed in claim 41, [the stringer for use as a joist in a screen frame, the stringer comprising a strip of cross section having a narrow width and depth sufficient to carry vertical reciprocating loads, presenting neither a top nor a bottom web, but a plurality of spaced apart platforms, each platform presenting a fastening formation which receives a fastener for screening panels, for securing a panel and a support area around or adjacent the fastening formation for supporting the panel which comprises a disc having a hole in its centre,] wherein said [the] hole [providing] provides a fastening formation and the surround of the disc a support area for the panel around the hole [in which the centre of the hole is immediately above the centroid of the section of the stringer, the disc at the upper surface of the stringer and an opening in the stringer immediately below the disc.]